Fix it Once

How Ancestry Successfully Manages
Vulnerabilities in the Cloud through
Amazon Machine Images

Me...

About us

We're a science and technology company with a very human mission

- World's largest online collection of family history records - billions & billions
- 3+ million wonderful subscribers
- 100 million family trees
- 10 web properties
- 3 petabytes of data under management

About us

- DNA kits available in 30+ countries
- 700K genomic markers
- 350 global regions
- Largest DNA repository in the world

Ancestry is founded — **1983**

Internet site launched — **1996**

Begin Mitochondrial DNA Testing — **2002**

1 million people tested — **2015**

2016

16 million people tested — **2019**

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Challenges

- Growth
- Rapid cycle expansion
  - Fast moving, traffic & business cycles
- Resiliency & uptime
  - Multiple global regions
  - Multiple Availability Zones

Transactions per second

250

5-10

Jan - Oct

November/December
(e.g. Black Friday / Cyber Monday)

Jan

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Tactical Approach to the Cloud

Each stack had to be imaged & rapidly deployable

- Needed to realized resiliency goals – *Can't just lift-and-shift*

- Make use of cloud elasticity and containerization

- More Standardized toolset….

We use and mandate AWS Tags

- Every system needed a NAMED owner or was shutdown

Removed Access

- Separate AWS accounts for Development, Smoke, Production, SOX, and PCI

- Absolutely NO Dev Production Access   Results: Huge   P1 Incidents!

- **IF it is awake, it is subject <u>to scanning</u>**

- **Approved Images (AMI) with Authentication Keys**

Challenges

Each stack had to be imaged & rapidly deployable

- Needed to realize resiliency goals – Can't just lift-and-shift

- Make use of cloud elasticity and containerization

- More standardized toolset

Here is what we did...

- Separate AWS accounts for Development, Smoke, Production, SOX, and PCI

- Absolutely NO Stage or Production access

  Spoiler alert: Huge ↓ P1 incidents!

- IF it is awake, it is subject to scanning

- Approved Images (AMI) with Authentication Keys

- Every system needed a NAMED owner or was shutdown (Qualys to find unnamed servers)

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Solution

Approved Images – AMI's

Ancestry required a new way of thinking about servers

Servers are cattle

Not pets

Solution

Don't push patches...patch the AMI

Shut down the old one

Spin up the new one with the new AMI

NO cows were harmed in our AWS migration!

Why Ancestry chooses AWS and Qualys

Why AWS?

- System resiliency

- Rapid elastic expansion

- Supported our rapid growth

Why Qualys?

- Proven ability to work well with AWS – expanded with our needs

- Virtually maintenance free, once we set up

- The data was accurate – no false positives

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Challenges

Lessons learned

- Don't get fixated on the count of vulnerabilities

- Buy-in at executive level

- Think operationally – not exceptionally

- KEEP CALM and STICK to the process … it takes time to work

- Communication and visibility

Confirmed

Sev 4 ▪▪▪▪☐

Sev 5 ▪▪▪▪▪

And then this…

And finally this

This happened

Vulnerability Count

>80% drop in vulnerabilities

Don't shoot for ZERO

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Benefits are awesome

- My ask of Development:
  Do one thing. Update the image.

- Forced us to have a more homogeneous platform and process

- Synced security with business goals

- Process seems to be sustainable!
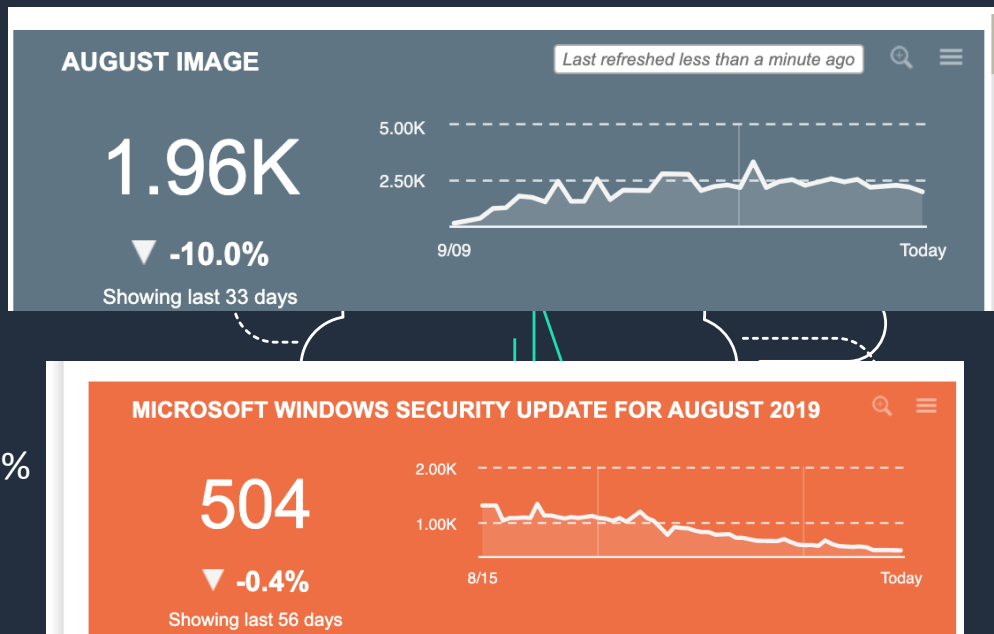
- 76%+ NIX scan are fully authenticated – 99% Windows

- Works for some applications as well

AUGUST IMAGE

Last refreshed less than a minute ago

1.96K

▼ -10.0%

Showing last 33 days

5.00K
2.50K
9/09
Today

MICROSOFT WINDOWS SECURITY UPDATE FOR AUGUST 2019

504

▼ -0.4%

Showing last 56 days

2.00K
1.00K
8/15
Today

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Benefits are awesome

- Works at the application layer as well

Dashboards

Key Metrics

- Use of approved image

- Confirmed 4s & 5s Ageing*

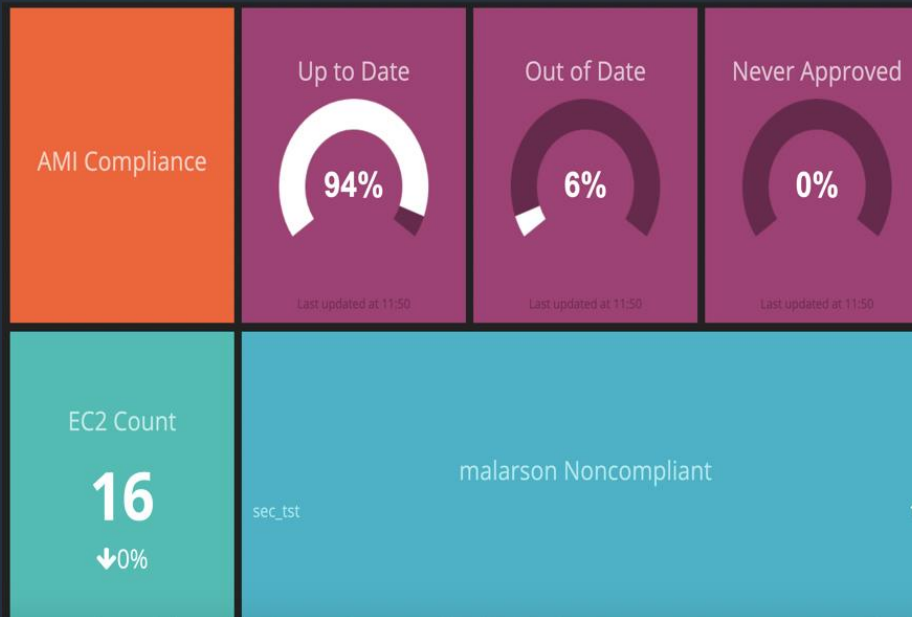- Number of Vulns Fixed

- Scan coverage - Target 95%

- Authentication Percentage – Target 95%

- Vulnerabilities not fixed by Image

* Aged based on vulnerability release date – pending…

Dashboards

Vulnerabilities NOT FIXED By Image

Vulnerabilities FIXED By Image

Vulnerabilities WILL BE FIXED By Image

Vulnerabilities NOT Fixed by Image (Action Needed)   Count: **53**   Average Age: **102.92**

Vulnerability	Host Name	Age	Sev	Detection Source	Solution
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	39	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1244 (https:
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	39	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1246 (https:
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	18	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1254 (https:
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	161	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1180 (https:
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	18	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1258 (https:
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	81	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1223 (https:
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	18	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1255 (https:
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	39	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1239 (https:
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	138	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1194 (https:
Microsoft ASP.NET MVC	i-0ae59a7e92687ee52	131	4	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft ASP.NET\ASP.NET MVC 4\\Assemblies\Syste..	Refer to MS14-059 (https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us
Security Feature Bypass	i-0c7794db90cb5181e	131	4	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft ASP.NET\ASP.NET MVC 4\\Assemblies\Syste..	Refer to MS14-059 (https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us

Vulnerabilities Fixed by Image (Update to latest image to fix)   Count: **4**   Average Age: **103.00**

Vulnerability	Host Name	A..	Sev	Detection Source	Solution
Null	Null	Null	Null	Null	Null
Microsoft .NET Framew..	i-0153de4a275c8ac33	103	4	KB4483484 or KB4483459 is not installed ..	Customers are advised to refer to CVE-2019-0613 (http.
Microsoft .NET Framew..	i-0153de4a275c8ac33	103	4	KB4480086 or KB4480064 is not installed ..	Customers are advised to refer to CVE-2019-0545 (http.
Microsoft Windows Sec..	i-0153de4a275c8ac33	103	4	KB4487000 or KB4487028 is not installed ..	Customers are advised to refer to Microsoft Security Gu.
Microsoft Windows Sec..	i-0153de4a275c8ac33	103	4	KB4480963 or KB4480964 is not installed ..	Customers are advised to refer to Microsoft Security Gu.

Vulnerabilities TO BE Fixed by Image (No Action - next image release will have these fixed)   Count: **4**

Vulnerability	Host Name	A..	Sev	Detection Source	Solution
Null	Null	Null	Null	Null	Null
Microsoft Windows	i-0a33960e15532cc0e	26	5	KB4512517 is not installed ..	Please refer to the Security Update Guide (https://porta
Security Update for Aug..	i-0d2087fb652c39524	26	5	KB4512488 is not installed ..	Please refer to the Security Update Guide (https://porta
Microsoft Windows	i-0a33960e15532cc0e	26	5	KB4512517 is not installed ..	Please refer to the Security Update Guide (https://porta
Security Update for Re..	i-0d2087fb652c39524	26	5	KB4512488 is not installed ..	Please refer to the Security Update Guide (https://porta

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Q&A

Thank you!